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CBI Raising Day

- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is organising the 20th D. P. Kohli Memorial Lecture on the occasion of Raising Day of the Investigation Agency.
- Chief Justice of India Justice D. Y. Chandrachud will deliver the D. P. Kohli Memorial Lecture at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- This year's theme of the Lecture is Adopting Technology to Advance Criminal Justice.



- The Chief Justice of India will also present the President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service and Police Medals for Meritorious Service to CBI officers on the occasion.
- The **Central Bureau of Investigation was established** by a Government of India resolution dated **1st April 1963** to investigate not only cases of bribery and corruption, but also violations of central fiscal laws, and serious crimes, besides collecting supporting intelligence.

- Over the last more than six decades, the Central Bureau of Investigation has emerged as a premier investigating and prosecuting agency in the country. CBI as the National Central Bureau for INTERPOL in India also coordinates international cooperation in law enforcement.
- CBI pays its respect and homage to its founder Director and has been organizing the **D. P. Kohli Memorial Lecture** since the year 2000.



- The late Dharamnath Prasad Kohli was born in 1907 in Uttar Pradesh. After joining the Police Service in 1931, he served in UP, erstwhile Madhya Bharat and the Government of India.
- He headed the Delhi Special Police Establishment DSPE in 1955 to curb and control the growing tentacles of corruption in public services. On the creation of the Central Bureau of Investigation on the 1st of April 1963, he became its founder Director and continued as its Director from 1963 till 1968.
- CBI said, the D. P. Kohli Memorial Lecture serves as a tribute to D. P. Kohli's vision and legacy in establishing the CBI as a premier investigating and prosecuting agency and underscores the agency's commitment to upholding integrity, accountability, and excellence in its operations.

Women's Prize

• The inaugural **Women's Prize for Non-Fiction** has announced its shortlist of six books, including **"Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI"** by Indian-British journalist and commentator **Madhumita Murgia**. The book explores the impact of artificial intelligence on human society.



- The other shortlisted books cover a wide range of subjects: "Thunderclap: A Memoir of Art and Life and Sudden Death" by Laura Cumming, "Doppelganger: A Trip Into the Mirror World" by Naomi Klein, "A Flat Place" by Noreen Masud
- "All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake" by Tiya Miles , "How to Say Babylon: A Jamaican Memoir" by Safiya Sinclair



- The common thread among the books is their originality of voice and ability to turn complex ideas and personal trauma into compelling prose.
- The jury, chaired by historian and broadcaster Suzannah Lipscomb, included fair fashion campaigner Venetia La Manna, academic Nicola Rollock, biographer

Anne Sebba, and author Kamila Shamsie. They looked for books that offer new perspectives and an alternative lens to examine the past, present, and future.

UN's Disaster Risk Reduction Efforts

- United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Kamal Kishore of India as the new Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- He will lead the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
- Mr. Kishore will succeed Mami Mizutori of Japan.

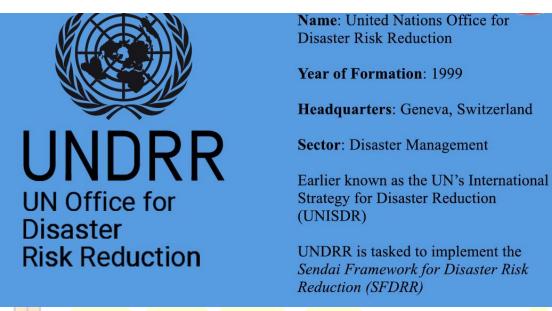


- Kamal Kishore has nearly 30 years of experience in disaster risk reduction, climate action, and sustainable development at global, regional, national, and local levels.
- He has worked in government, the United Nations, and civil society organizations.



• Currently, Mr. Kishore is the Head of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in India, a position he has held since 2015.

- During India's presidency of the **Group of 20 (G20)**, he led the G20 Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction.
- He also contributed to the development of the Coalition for **Disaster Resilient** Infrastructure, launched by the Indian Prime Minister in 2019.



- Before joining NDMA, Mr. Kishore spent nearly 13 years with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Geneva, New Delhi, and New York.
- He led global advocacy to integrate disaster resilience concerns in the Sustainable Development Goals and managed a global team of disaster risk reduction advisers.
- He also worked as an Architect at the Action Research Unit for Development in New Delhi from 1992 to 1994, where he worked on post-earthquake reconstruction projects.

900 Year Old Chalukyan Inscription

- A 900-year-old Kannada inscription dating back to the Kalyana Chalukya dynasty has been discovered in a state of utter neglect at Gangapuram, a temple town in Jadcherla mandal, Mahabubnagar district.
- The rare inscription was found lying uncared for on a tank bund near the **Chowdamma temple**.



- The inscription was **issued on June 8, 1134 CE** by the Customs Officers of Tailapa-III, son of the Kalyana Chalukya Emperor '**Bhulokamalla' Someswara-III**.
- Records the remission of income accrued through toll taxes called Vaddaravula and Hejjunka towards a perpetual lamp and incense for the God Somanatha. E. Sivanagi Reddy, an archaeologist and CEO of Pleach India Foundation, noticed the inscription during a visit to the Chowdamma temple as part of the 'Preserve Heritage for Posterity' campaign.



 After carefully studying the inscription, Dr. Reddy sensitized the Chowdamma Temple Committee Members about its historical significance and the need for immediate preservation.

• The Temple Committee Members, including K. Mallikarjun, Giriprasad, Chennayya, Seenu, Sankar, Srinivas, and Satteyya, have responded positively to the call for preservation.



- They have agreed to **shift the inscription to the premises of the Chowdamma** temple and erect it on a pedestal with details. A retired engineer, Gangapuram Kesava Prasad, also participated in the program.
- Although the inscription was previously copied and published by the Archaeology department, this discovery highlights the importance of preserving cultural heritage and raising awareness among local communities. The collaborative efforts of archaeologists, foundations, and community members ensure that such rare archaeological finds are protected for future generations.

START 2024 Program

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will conduct the Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) 2024 program during April and May.
- ISRO is inviting **Expression of Interest** (EOI) from educational institutes, universities, and colleges within India offering UG and PG courses in physical sciences and technology to **host START-2024**.
- The main **objective of the training program** is to attract youngsters to the fields of space science and technology.
- The training modules will cover introductory-level topics on various verticals of space science and technology, including Indian space exploration programs and research opportunities.





 Post-graduate students and final year undergraduate students studying physical sciences (Physics and Chemistry) and technology (Electronics, Computer Science, Mechanical, Applied Physics, Radiophysics, Optics & Opto-electronics, Instrumentation, and other associated subjects) in institutes within India are eligible to apply.



- The **START program aims to inspire and encourage** young minds to pursue careers in space science and technology. By providing comprehensive training and exposing students to Indian space exploration programs, ISRO hopes to nurture future talents in this field.
- Through this initiative, **ISRO seeks to foster innovation and scientific curiosity** among the youth, ensuring a steady pipeline of skilled professionals for India's space endeavors. The program aligns with ISRO's commitment to promoting science, technology, and research in the country.

Indian Parliamentary Delegation

- Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh, held a bilateral meeting with their Armenian counterparts on the sidelines of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) event in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The Armenian delegation was represented by the Vice President of the National Assembly, Hakob Arshakyan.



- Harivansh appreciated Armenia's support to India in multilateral initiatives and emphasized the growing partnership between the two countries.
- Highlighting the shared democratic values and rich cultural heritage, Harivansh proposed enhancing focus on promoting cultural exchanges, such as art exhibitions, film festivals, and academic collaborations. He expressed hope for exploring various areas of engagement in parliamentary affairs between India and Armenia.



- Deputy Chairman also met with the IPU President, Tulia Ackson, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania. He congratulated her on assuming the presidency of the IPU and expressed hope that their meeting will renew their commitment and strengthen collaboration with the IPU and world parliaments.
- An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by Harivansh, is currently attending the **148th Assembly of the IPU in Geneva, Switzerland**.
- The delegation comprises five members from Rajya Sabha: S Niranjan Reddy, Sujeet Kumar, Ashok Mittal, Prashanta Nanda, and Sumitra. The meetings and discussions during the IPU event aimed to strengthen parliamentary ties between India and other nations. The Indian delegation highlighted the importance of shared democratic values, cultural exchanges, and collaboration in parliamentary affairs.

World's First Om Shaped Temple

- The **world's first-ever temple** designed in the iconic Om shape has been inaugurated in the village of Jadan, Pali district of Rajasthan.
- This architectural masterpiece, spanning across 250 acres, is not only expected to attract tourists but will also boast an impressive visual presence visible from space.



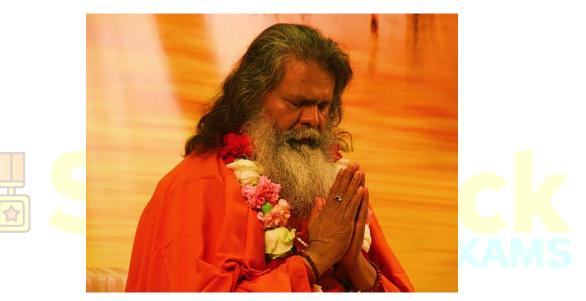
• This groundbreaking endeavor marks a significant milestone as it pioneers the creation of such a distinctive temple globally. The **'Om Aakar' temple**, following the Nagara style commonly seen in North India, pays tribute to the region's rich cultural and architectural heritage.



- The temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, embodies spiritual significance with a consecration program for the Shivalinga scheduled between February 10-19, 2024.
- Following the Nagara style of architecture prevalent in North India, the Omshaped temple is a sprawling structure with the Om symbol extending over a radius of about half a kilometer. The intricate design showcases the cultural and architectural heritage of the region.



- Temple complex boasts 1,008 idols of Lord Mahadev, including 12 Jyotirlingas. The structure stands at 135 feet, supported by 2,000 pillars, and accommodates 108 rooms. Notably, the tomb of Guru Madhavanand ji is positioned at the center of the premises.
- The foundation stone for the **temple was laid in 1995**, and construction has been ongoing for the past 25 years. The temple reflects dedication and perseverance in bringing this unique vision to fruition.
- Swami Maheshwaranand Maharaj, a revered spiritual leader with a global following, emphasized that this Om-shaped temple is a pioneering creation, marking a unique blend of spirituality and architectural innovation.



- The temple is associated with Om Ashram, founded by Vishwa Guru Maha Mandleshwar Paramahansa Swami Maheswara Nanda Puriji Maharaj. The ashram follows Hindu traditions, and the Om mantra, considered a Mahamantra, holds a central place in its spiritual practices.
- As the Om Shiv Mandir nears completion, it stands as a testament to cultural heritage, spiritual devotion, and architectural innovation, offering a unique experience for visitors and devotees alike.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. HQ Of UN's Disaster Risk Reduction
- A. Paris
- B. New York
- C. Geneva
- D. New Delhi ANSWER: C

2. START 2024 Program Is Launched By

- A. CSIR
- B. NASA
- C. ISRO
- D. JAXA ANSWER: C

3. 148th Assembly Of The IPU Is Held In

- A. Switzerland
- B. Finland
- C. France
- D. Denmark ANSWER: A

4. Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Telangana
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Gujarat
- D. Karnataka ANSWER: A

5. Cuatro Cienegas Region Due To Water Crisis, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Canada
- B. Mexico
- C. Cuba
- D. Bahamas

ANSWER: B

- 6. Election Commission Of India Launched Which App To Facilitate Easier Voting For Persons Above 85 Years Of Age
- A. Madad App
- B. Sankalp App
- C. Saksham App
- D. Kavach App ANSWER: C
- 7. Primary Objective Of Smart Meter National Programme
- A. To replace India's 25 crore conventional meters with smart meters
- B. To improve water distribution efficiency
- C. To promote renewable energy sources
- D. To reduce pollution from power plants **ANSWER: A**
- 8. Which IIT Successfully Transferred Pioneering Swine Fever Vaccine Technology To BioMed Pvt, A Vaccine Manufacturing Company
- A. II<mark>T G</mark>uwahati
- B. IT Madras
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IIT Roorkee ANSWER: A
- 9. Mushk Budiji Is An Indigenous Variety Of Which Crop
- A. Rice
- B. Wheat
- C. Maize
- D. Jowar

ANSWER: A

10. Afanasy Nikitin Seamount Lies In Which Ocean

- A. Pacific Ocean
- B. Indian Ocean
- C. Atlantic Ocean
- D. Arctic Ocean

ANSWER: B

11. Which Country Hosted G20 2nd Employment Working Group Meeting

- A. Brazil
- B. China
- C. South Africa
- D. India ANSWER: A

12. Where Was The First Nuclear Energy Summit Held

- A. New Delhi
- B. Brussels
- C. Moscow
- D. Beijing
 - **ANSWER: B**

13. A 900 Year Old Kannada Inscription From The Kalyana Chalukya Dynasty Was Discovered In Which State

- A. Telangana
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Karnataka
- D. Maharashtra ANSWER: A

14. Where Was World's First Om-shaped Temple Inaugurated

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Uttar Pradesh
 - ANSWER: A

15. Tantalum, A Rare Metal, Was Recently Discovered In Which River

- A. Gomti
- B. Sutlej
- C. Kaveri
- D. Godavari

ANSWER: B

16. What Are 'Cicadas', Recently Seen In The News

- A. Sound producing insects
- B. Ancient irrigation technique
- C. Newly discovered species of spider
- D. Invasive plant **ANSWER: A**

17. Which Organization Launched A New Network For Coronaviruses, CoViNet

- A. World Bank
- B. WHO
- C. WTO
- D. UNICEF

ANSWER: B

18. Which Space Company Successfully Test Fired 'Kalam-250' At Propulsion Testbed Of The ISRO

- A. Bellatrix Aerospace
- B. AgniKul Cosmos
- C. Skyroot Aerospace
- D. Kawa Space ANSWER: C

19. Indiramma Housing Scheme Is Associated With Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Kerala
- D. Telangana

ANSWER: D

20. Who Rebuilt The Somnath Temple In 815 AD After It Was Destroyed By Arab Invaders In 725 AD

- A. Vikramaditya II
- B. Nagabhatta -I
- C. Nagabhatta -II
- D. Mihirbhoja ANSWER: C